

Function 800: General Government

This function includes the activities of the White House and the Executive Office of the President, the legislative branch, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), and programs designed to carry out the legislative and administrative responsibilities of the federal government, including personnel management, fiscal operations, and property control.

For 2001, the conference agreement on the Republican budget resolution provides \$12.8 billion in discretionary funding for general government, \$252 million below the amount needed to maintain the current purchasing power of programs within this function. The conference agreement continues to cut these programs in 2002-2005 to accumulate a \$7.0 billion cut in purchasing power over the five-year period. By 2005, the level in the conference agreement represents a steep 15.9 percent cut in purchasing power.

- **Comparison to House Resolution** — For 2001, the conference agreement provides \$400 million more than the House-passed resolution.
- **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** — The IRS represents 63 percent of funding in this function. A 15.9 percent cut could devastate the agency at a time when funding for processing, assistance, and management needs to be maintained at current levels. Congress needs to provide the IRS certainty in its operational budget for the near future so that the agency can make the improvements expected by the American taxpayers, especially given the increasing complexity of the tax code.
- **Other Programs** — If Congress chooses to maintain the purchasing power of the IRS, it will need to cut other programs in this function by 5 percent for 2001 and by 43 percent for 2005. These other agencies include the legislative branch, the Government Accounting Office, the General Services Administration, the Executive Office of the President, and the Library of Congress.